

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 01988 022335Z
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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4004
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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AMCONSUL MUNICH
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UNCLAS STUTTGART 1988

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS GW
SUBJ: HIGH OFFICIALS HEARD AS WITNESSES IN STAMMHEIM CASE

REF: STUTTGART 1955

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENTS NOVEMBER 29 TO LANDTAG COMMISSION, MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER, INTERIOR MINISTER SCHIESS, AND FEDERAL PROSECUTOR REBMANN INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NOT CONSIDERED TERRORIST PRISONERS TO BE SUICIDE PRONE. FILBINGER WAS EXCULPATED BY OTHER WITNESSES AS NOT HAVING BEEN INFORMED IN DETAIL ABOUT PRISON CONDITIONS. REBMANN REGRETTED THAT COURT AND LAWYERS' CHAMBER HAD NOT PERMITTED INSTALLATION OF GLASS WALL BETWEEN DEFENSE LAWYERS AND DEFENDANTS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONLY MEANS TO PREVENT SMUGGLING OF OBJECTS INTO CELLS. REBMANN ALSO POINTED TO PRESSURES TO WHICH PRISON OFFICIALS HAD BEEN EXPOSED BY TERRORISTS AND PUBLIC OPINION AS REASONS THAT MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE. ALTHOUGH THE APPEAR-
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STUTTG 01988 022335Z

ANCE OF THESE OFFICIALS BEFORE THE LANDTAG COMMISSION PROVIDED MOMENTARY STIMULUS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS, THEIR TESTIMONY SEEMS TO HAVE FURTHER REDUCED FILBINGER'S EXPOSURE TO OPPOSITION ATTACKS OVER THE STAMMHEIM AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 29, THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG LANDTAG COMMITTEE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF RECENT EVENTS IN STAMMHEIM PRISON

HEARD MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER, INTERIOR MINISTER SCHIESS, AND FORMER MINISTERIALDIREKTOR IN B-W JUSTICE MINISTRY, DR. KURT REBMANN (NOW FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL) AS WITNESSES. FILBINGER SOUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER FOR EVENTS IN STAMMHEIM HAD NOT BEEN INFLUENCED BY CABINET DECISIONS -- A REPROACH WHICH THE SPD OPPOSITION HAD TRIED TO BRING FORTH IN A LANDTAG MEETING LAST MONTH TO INDUCE FILBINGER TO RESIGN.

3. FILBINGER WAS ALSO EXCULPATED BY FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL REBMANN WHO HAD BEEN UNTIL JUNE, 1977 MINISTERIALDIREKTOR IN THE B-W JUSTICE MINISTRY AND THUS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR STAMMHEIM. REBMANN DECLARED THAT FILBINGER, UNLIKE FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER BENDER, HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT ALL DETAILS OF ADMINISTRATION. REBMANN, HOWEVER, ALSO PRAISED BENDER FOR HAVING BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT PRISON SECURITY AND FOR HAVING IMPROVED PRISON CONTROL.

4. ACCORDING TO REBMANN, ONLY A GLASS WALL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED SECURE SEPARATION BETWEEN DEFENSE LAWYERS AND DEFENDANTS -- BETWEEN 1974 AND 1976, LAWYERS HAD VISITED BAADER 605 TIMES AND ENSSLIN 623 TIMES. HOWEVER, A COURT DECISION AND THE CHAMBER OF LAWYERS HAD FORBIDDEN THE USE OF SUCH MEANS. THE SEARCH OF VISITORS AND OF DEFENSE LAWYERS' FILES HAD ALSO BEEN INADEQUATE. REBMANN STATED THAT HE HAD NOT KNOWN THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD HAD CONTACT WITH OTHER PRISONERS DURING CONSTRUCTION WORK. PLASTER AND TOOLS HAD THEN DISAPPEARED AND A PRISON OFFICIAL HAD GIVEN IN TO BAADER'S REQUEST FOR "PAINT FOR A SHELF".

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STUTTG 01988 022335Z

ING CONSTRUCTION WORK. PLASTER AND TOOLS HAD THEN DISAPPEARED AND A PRISON OFFICIAL HAD GIVEN IN TO BAADER'S REQUEST FOR "PAINT FOR A SHELF".

5. REBMANN ATTRIBUTED THE SCANDAL IN STAMMHEIM TO OCCASIONAL NEGLECT OF REGULATIONS AND HIS OWN DIRECTIVES BY PRISON PERSONNEL, AND TO PUBLIC OPINION AND COURT DECISIONS THAT HAD MADE STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES IMPOSSIBLE.

COMMENT: THE LANDTAG COMMISSION DOUBTLESS DERIVES SATISFACTION FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THESE PROMINENT OFFICIALS AS WITNESSES, AND THEIR PRESENCE GAVE MOMENTARY EXCITEMENT TO AN INVESTIGATION THAT HAS BECOME ALMOST ROUTINE AS THE WEEKS GO BY. THE TESTIMONY OFFERED, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN FILBINGER ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AGAINST OPPOSITION ATTACKS OVER RECENT EVENTS IN STAMMHEIM.

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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